



ISSAQUAH ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

PO Box 921 • ISSAQUAH, WA 98027

A Government For and By the People

The citizens of Issaquah are interested in their government. They do care and they will act, if they feel that they can actually claim their government as their own. If they feel that they can access information, in understandable language, and that their ideas and suggestions are welcomed and really, truly considered, they will participate. But it ain't easy....

A section of the Outreach and Involvement Handbook created by the City of Portland, Oregon, talks about some of the different responses citizens have to their government. The Handbook identifies Advocacy, Anger and Apathy as three types of citizen behavior. Remember that a person is likely to fall into different categories on different issues.

Effective Advocacy: We can profile an effective citizen activist: a person who has an ability to make an impact on his/her city. Citizens most effective at influencing City policies and plans are simultaneously understanding, respectful, and demanding. They understand the potential role they play in shaping the city, while respecting the part of City staff and elected officials. These citizens can be very demanding when City efforts don't seem sufficient. But, they are also vocal in their support of effective City programs and projects.

Anger: While angry citizens may be a challenge for staff, such citizens have chosen to engage the City about an issue and are willing to express their passion and concern. For all the anger expressed, such people want to be involved and are willing to spend the energy to do so. People who begin by expressing anger about an issue can become effective advocates for their concerns.

Apathy: When citizens express unbridled anger about a City policy, at least there is little question about where they stand on an issue! The same cannot be said for the problem of citizen apathy. While low turnout and minimal feedback can be a function of public perception that the issue is unimportant, this is rarely the case. Low turnout or minimal feedback is more commonly a result of those citizens who care most not being made aware of the opportunity to comment, or because the initial communication did not effectively educate potentially impacted citizens who would care about the issue if they had understood it better.

Which kind of citizen are you? How is the City doing in engaging the citizenry?

How would you like to be involved?

This is our Wish List from April 2002. Let's see if our wishes came true!

1. Community meetings in neighborhoods to listen to what the citizens have to say. **(NO)**
2. Live phone show on Channel 21 for public call in. **(NO)**
3. Change format of Utility Bill to include City information. **(NO)**
4. 24-hour hot line for ideas, suggestions, issues. **(NO)**
5. Interview members of boards and commissions, staff, council people, community leaders to ascertain how well the city is involving the citizens. **(NO)**
6. Place full City Council agenda packet in Library by Friday, noon, before the City Council Meeting. **(YES!)**
7. Create a City contact directory by function rather than department. **(NO)**
8. Create, track and archive a system of City surveys. (There have been a few surveys on the website. How are they recorded? How are they used?)
9. Post information on the website and at City Halls by neighborhood. **(NO)**
10. Design a Public Process Guide for staff to insure consistency from project to project. **(NO)**
11. Provide a class for Administration, Staff and Council on plain language--how to translate government-speak for citizens. **(NO)**
12. Provide copies of written information that is presented at meetings for the citizens in attendance. (Depends on the meeting. Sometimes the Council doesn't even get anything. Planning Department tends to be good. Public Works Engineering Department, especially in the Council Utilities Committee meeting, tends to be really bad. Public Works Operations Department we rarely see. Finance Department is pretty good. Parks Department tends to be pretty good.)
13. Create a Newcomers Guide to City Government: An Operating Manual for New Residents. **(NO)**

Contact the People You Elected

Mayor is Ava Frisinger. In Issaquah, the mayor is responsible for the supervision of staff and acts as a representative for the City in many regional committees.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=25>; 425-837-3020

City Council : The City Council is made up of 7 elected officials. Fred Butler is currently the Council President and Nancy Davidson is the Deputy President. When you write to Council, it is the President's responsibility to respond to your query, although any other council person can do so if they desire. E-mails and letters that go to any Council member are considered part of the public record and therefore are available for public review. If you don't want to be on the public record, call or meet with them.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/sectionindex.asp?sectionid=22>

Fred Butler 425-392-5775 Bill Conley 425-391-8168
Joe Forkner 425-392-3598 Russell Joe 425-313-8957
Dave Kappler 425-392-3571 Hank Thomas 425-392-2272
Nancy Davidson 425-392-7412

City Council Meetings: These are the most formal of the City Council meetings, where all official decisions are made. There is a chance for citizens to speak in the public comment section at the beginning of the meeting. People can speak on any topic for 5 minutes. Council places importance on the public comment section, considering it one of the main conduits for communication with citizens.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/agendas.asp?sectionid=22&ccbid=0>

COW: Committee of the Whole, is a Council meeting to discuss issues with all members present. No action is taken nor citizen comment allowed, but the COW is televised so you can

watch the drama unfold on Channel 21.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?CCBID=17>

LUC: Land Use Committee, staffed by Planning, reviews land use policies. Hank Thomas is the chair; Fred Butler and Bill Conley are the other two members.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?ccbid=1>

MDRAC: Major Development and Regional Affairs Committee provides Council review of the build-out of the Urban Villages (Issaquah Highlands and Talus). They are also responsible for reviewing regional, state and federal matters. Russell Joe is the chair; Fred Butler and Dave Kappler are the other Council Members in this committee.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?ccbid=11>

Operations Committee, staffed by Finance, is responsible for the financial operations of the City. The committee is Bill Conley, chair, Hank Thomas and Nancy Davidson.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/sectionindex.asp?sectionid=18>

Services Committee covers fire and police protection and Parks, plus a variety of other matters having to do with human support. It's chaired by Kappler and staffed by Steve Gierke. Other committee members are Nancy Davidson and Russell Joe.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?CCBID=30>

Utilities Committee reviews the physical plant, in engineering and operation. Joe Forkner is the chair of this committee and Fred Butler and Nancy Davidson are members, with Public Works providing the staff support.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?CCBID=10>

You Can Get Involved in Citizen Committees

Applications for Issaquah Boards & Commissions will be accepted until 5 pm January 28, 2005. Forms are available from the City's website <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us> or from the City Clerk, 2nd Floor Issaquah Police Station (425-837-3000).

Arts Commission recommends funding allocations to Council for performing and visual arts. Steve Gierke is their staff support.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?CCBID=13>

Cable TV Commission regulates and oversees the operations of the City's cable television system. Tim Smith, Information Technology Department, is support.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?CCBID=4>

Parks Board, staffed by the Parks Department, is responsible for reviewing the function and planning of the Parks Department.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?ccbid=5>

DC: Development Commission is staffed by the Planning Department and reviews development decisions in areas other than the two urban villages (Issaquah Highlands and Talus) to ensure that they fall within the guidelines of the City Land Use Code.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?CCBID=7>

PPC--Planning Policy Commission reviews and suggests changes in City Policy via the Comprehensive Plan. This committee is staffed by Long Term Planning.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?ccbid=6>

River and Streams Board is responsible for protecting the City's aquatic features. They review both developments and studies that impact the waters in Issaquah Basin. The committee is staffed by Planning. The updates of the Critical Area Ordinances are in their jurisdiction.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?ccbid=2>

UVDC--Urban Village Development Commission is the citizen review committee for the Urban Villages (Issaquah Highlands and Talus). They review applications from these areas to ensure that the development falls within the development agreements created for each site. This committee is staffed by the Major Development Review Team (MDRT).

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/CCBIndex.asp?ccbid=3>

Your City Services

Court: Judge Peter D. Jarvis.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=27>; 425-837-3170

Finance Department is the department responsible for budgeting and tracking money in the city. Jim Blake is the director of Finance.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=12>; 425-837-3050

Fire and Rescue Services are provided to Issaquah by Eastside Fire and Rescue. This organization provides a complete range of services including fire prevention, public education, emergency medical care, fire protection and hazardous materials control. <http://www.eastsidefire-rescue.org/>; 425-392-3433

Information Technology Department: The Information Technology (IT) Department is comprised of three operations: computer support, cable TV, and the city telephone system. This includes Issaquah's TV21/61 government access channel and cable commission and the city's website and intranet. <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=29> 425-837-3373

Administration: The terms Administration and Executive Department are used interchangeably within the City. Basically the Administration is the Mayor--Ava Frisinger, City Administrator--Leon Kos, and City Deputy Administrator--Joe Meneghini. The Administration's job is to ensure that the City and its staff run smoothly, in the direction given by City Council. <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=9>; 425-837-3020

Building Department/ Permit Center: Permits, processes and inspects development/redevelopment and also enforces the City Codes. The department is made up of:

- **Permit Center:** The permit center provides general information for construction in the city.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=51>; 425-837-3100

- **Plan Preview:** Code interpretation, and answers to questions on your Geotechnical or Structural reports can be found in the links below.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=68>

- **Inspections:** Most changes to your buildings or property require inspections for compliance with City Code.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=60> 425-837-3112

- **Code Compliance:** Are you concerned how the City looks? Do you have questions about sign restrictions, right of way requirements or other City directives.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=527> 425-837-3107

City Clerk's Office manages cemetery deeds & records, claims for damages, Council meetings agendas, election / voter info, Municipal Code, notary public services, passport services, pet licensing, public records requests, and regulatory licensing.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=11> 425-837-3000

Parks Department, directed by Anne McGill, is responsible for both passive and active parks plus all of the public maintenance of lawns, trees, medians, and city building maintenance. It takes advice from the Parks Board.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/sectionindex.asp?sectionid=19>; 425-837-3300

Planning Department, directed by Mark Hinthorne, is made up of Policy Planning, Current Planning and Environmental Planning. Planning involves citizens in policy- and decision-making through Development and Planning Policy Commissions and River and Streams Board. 425-837-3080

- **Policy Planning**, led by Trish Heinonen, is responsible for the City's Comprehensive Plan. 425-837-3080
- **Current Planning**, led by David Favour, implements the Land Use Code and processes new development (outside of Urban Villages) through the system. 425-837-3080
- **Environmental Planning**, led by Peter Rosen, is responsible for the State Environmental Protection Act within the City. 425-837-3080

Police Department is responsible for maintaining peace and order, protecting life and property, preventing crime, and enforcing the law. Police interact with the public in its Citizens Academy, Explorer Post 117, Reserve Police Academy, and in the DARE and School Resource Officer programs.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=20>; 425-837-3200

Public Works Engineering is responsible for the creation of the physical structures of Issaquah; roads, sewers, water and stormwater systems are all planned and engineered by Public Works Engineering.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=16>; 425-837-3400

- **MDRT--Major Development Review Team** was created by ordinance to streamline the build-out of the Urban Villages within the City. Keith Niven is the director who ensures that the Urban Villages follow their development agreements.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/sectionindex.asp?sectionid=18>; (425) 837-3400

- **RCO--Resource Conservation Office:** David Fujimoto, director, is responsible for the garbage contracts, stream monitoring, Pickering Garden and many other volunteer events within the City.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=17>; (425) 837-3400

Public Works Operations runs the City's physical plant: vehicles, road maintenance, traffic signals, water, sewer, stormwater, etc. This office is available 24 hours a day.

<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/SectionIndex.asp?SectionID=15>; 425-837-3470

City of Issaquah General Information:
<http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us> or 425-837-3000

Issaquah Environmental Council

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Type:
 Regular - \$25 Business - \$50 Sponsor - \$100

Other - \$ _____ (Make checks payable to Issaquah Environmental Council.)

Your Information:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

Other Phone _____

E-mail _____

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS

SE Bypass Pollution Olde Town
 Alternative Transportation Protecting our Water
Resources Salmon & Habitat Livable Communities
 Other _____

INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT?

YES! Possibly, tell me more about it

Privacy Policy: IEC respects your right to privacy and will not sell or distribute your personal information. The IEC's sole purpose in requesting your information is to keep you informed about environmental issues and events in our area. By providing us with your email information you are consenting to have IEC send you unsolicited emails that IEC feels are of interest to its members. If you wish to be removed from the email list, simply respond to the email and ask to be removed.

Updates

The SE Bypass: At the January 3, 2005 Issaquah City Council meeting, staff presented a New Alignment #5 to be studied in the final Environmental Impact Statement. In December, Council had chosen Alternative #3 over staff's preference for Alternative #6. This new change was requested because Alternative #3 impacts to the Sportsmen's Club would require an additional 4-12 months' study. Alternative #5 avoids the Sportsmen's Club but removes one of the two Issaquah High softball fields. This and other school impacts now need to be negotiated with Issaquah School District, apparently a less arduous process than for the Sportsmen's Club.

The re-drawn Alignment #5 has significant changes, including the location of the roadbed along 6th Avenue SE & the size & locations of 2 stormwater ponds. http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/files/exhibit_b_modified_alignment_5.pdf Check the new map on the City's website & send comments to council@ci.issaquah.wa.us.

Sunset Interchange Infiltration: It seems as if WSDOT and Port Blakely want to create a 5 acre detention pond in the Issaquah Highlands as part of a convoluted stormwater/ infiltration exchange. This elaborate idea would theoretically compensate for the lack of infiltration capacity possible at the Sunset Interchange.

Lake Sammamish State Park Redevelopment: The Advisory Committee's recommendations were presented to the State Parks Commission January 13. We will let you know what the commission decides to do next!

Put March 12 on your calendar! Sammamish Stewardship Saturday & the Hobby & Volunteer Expo will both be at Pickering Farm, 9am—3pm.

ISSAQUAH ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

PO Box 921

Issaquah, WA 98027-0034

(425) 557-5502

<http://www.issaquahaction.org>

PRINTED BY



The UPS Store

700 NW Gilman Blvd. Issaquah, WA 98027

Phone: 425-557-0777 Fax: 425-557-4648

Email: theupsstore@qwest.net

THE MISSION of Issaquah Environmental Council is to protect and enhance the air, soil, water, flora, fauna, visual, recreational, and cultural resources of the City of Issaquah and surrounding areas for the long-term benefit of its citizens.

OUR PURPOSE is to affect the future of Issaquah through the promotion of intelligent and sensitive land-use planning and government policy.